

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

AMERICAN OVERSIGHT,

Plaintiff,

V.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Defendant.

Case No. 18-cv-2565 (DLF)

JOINT STATUS REPORT

1) On November 7, 2018, Plaintiff American Oversight brought this action against the U.S. Department of State (State) under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (FOIA).

2) State has conducted initial searches for records responsive to each of Plaintiff's FOIA requests, and State is conducting supplemental searches as appropriate.

3) The parties have conferred regarding the production schedule for records responsive to six of Plaintiff's requests that do not require further narrowing: F-2018-04763 (the Stull Calendars FOIA¹ Compl. ¶23), approximately 415 potentially responsive pages), F-2018-04761 (the Stull White House Correspondence FOIA Compl. ¶20, approximately 580 potentially responsive records), F-2018-04713 (the Second White House Correspondence FOIA Compl. ¶35, approximately 75 potentially responsive records), F-2018-04759 (the Stull Congressional Correspondence FOIA Compl. ¶17, approximately 35 potentially responsive

¹ The names of the FOIA requests included here are those provided by Plaintiff in its Complaint. ECF No. 1.

records), F-2018-04767 (the Haley Correspondence FOIA Compl. ¶32, approximately 30 potentially responsive records), and F-2018-04714 (the Nowrouzzadeh FOIA Compl. ¶38, approximately 670 potentially responsive records, which Plaintiff has agreed to narrow).²

4) State will begin rolling monthly productions of responsive, non-exempt records on April 17, 2019, and it will continue monthly production on or about the 17th of each month thereafter.

5) State will endeavor to begin processing an average of 300 pages per month, and the parties may confer further regarding the processing rate after productions have begun. State will attempt to prioritize the requests in the order Plaintiff has requested, but State represents that records responsive to certain requests may require additional review, including internal or external consultation.

6) The parties have agreed to confer to narrow the universe of records potentially responsive to four of Plaintiff's requests: F-2018-04743 (the Stull Correspondence FOIA Compl. ¶11), F-2018-04758 (the Stull External Attachments FOIA Compl. ¶14), F-2018-04764 (the Leadership Correspondence FOIA Compl. ¶26), and F-2018-04765 (the Moley Correspondence FOIA Compl. ¶29). State has agreed to provide Plaintiff with search term or custodian hit reports for three of these requests by May 1, 2019, to aid in narrowing the records that to be processed for these requests. Plaintiff has agreed to respond with narrowing proposals by May 8, 2019.

² Defendant has explained to Plaintiff that the number of potentially responsive documents returned as a result of its initial searches is not yet an accurate representation of the total volume of documents potentially responsive to each request because, except for the pages potentially responsive to Request F-2018-04763, the potentially responsive records are email files. Until these files are loaded into Defendant's document review platform – a process that is currently underway – attachments do not appear as separate documents. In addition, as referenced above, Defendant is conducting a limited number of supplemental searches.

7) The parties propose to file a further Joint Status Report with the Court on or before April 23, 2019.

Dated: March 1, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Daniel A. McGrath
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